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SUBJECT: PANAMA: CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE ELECTION
DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 107679

(U) Panamanian MFA Director General for External Political Affairs Javier Bonagas indicated Panama would likely support U.S. candidate Felice Gaer's re-election to the United Nations Committee Against Torture. Bonagas was impressed with Gaer's work on the Committee and on religious freedom in particular, as he has also worked on religious freedom issues within this Committee. Bonagas stated that Panama would review the credentials of other candidates for the position before making a definitive decision, but said that Panama most likely would support her re-election. Post will continue to press for Ms. Gaer's re-election.

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